

WHAT WE CLAIM AS OUR INVENTION IS:

1. A cooler for keeping foods chilled on ice held in the cooler, the cooler comprising:

a bottom wall and a side wall surrounding the outer periphery of the bottom wall, each wall comprising insulating material to resist heat transfer through the wall, the side wall extending from the bottom wall to an upper end of the side wall, the bottom wall and the side wall defining an interior compartment for receiving and holding ice in the cooler;

the bottom wall having a surface facing the interior compartment, the surface sloping downwardly from the side wall to a low point of the surface whereby melt water from ice in the cooler compartment flows by gravity along the bottom wall surface to the low point;

a drain extending through the thickness of the bottom wall to discharge melt water from the cooler compartment, the drain having an inlet and an outlet, the drain inlet opening at the low point of the bottom wall surface to receive melt water and the drain outlet below the bottom wall to discharge melt water from the cooler; and

means for supporting the bottom wall off the ground wherein the drain outlet is spaced above the ground such that the drain outlet is accessible from below the bottom wall and can completely discharge melt water without tipping or further raising the cooler.

2. The cooler of claim 1 wherein the downward slope of the bottom wall surface comprises a vertical change in elevation of at least one-quarter inch.

3. The cooler of claim 1 wherein the drain outlet is a threaded pipe.

4. The cooler of claim 1 wherein the bottom wall surface is generally rectangular-shaped and has a width dimension of about 36 inches and a length dimension of about 72 inches.

5. The cooler of claim 4 wherein the means for supporting the bottom wall of the ground comprises a stationary base attached to at least one of the bottom wall and the side wall.

6. The cooler of claim 5 wherein the stationary base comprises foldable legs.

7. The cooler of claim 1 wherein each wall comprises at least one-half inch thick insulating material.

8. The cooler of claim 1 wherein the means for supporting the bottom wall off the ground comprises a mobile base.

9. The cooler of claim 1 wherein the bottom wall surface has a width dimension of about 36 inches and a length dimension of about 72 inches;

the drain outlet is threaded; and

the means for supporting the bottom wall off the ground comprises one of a stationary base and a mobile base.

10. The cooler of claim 1 wherein the sidewall comprises hand grips for manually carrying the cooler.

11. The cooler of claim 1 wherein the side wall extends a first length dimension from the bottom wall; and

the bottom wall surface has a second maximum length dimension greater than the first length dimension.